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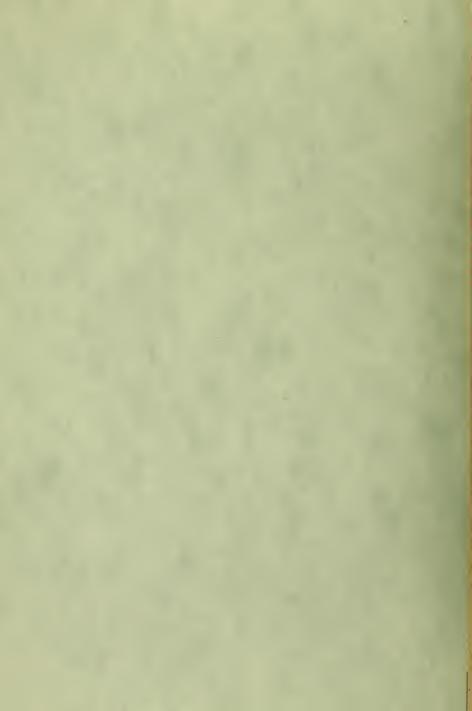


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INTERDICTION OF A TRANSPORTATION NETWORK

Charles Putnam Preston



NAVAL POSTGRADUATE SCHOOL Monterey, California



THESIS

INTERDICTION OF A TRANSPORTATION NETWORK

by

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March 1972



Interdiction of a Transportation Network

by

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ABSTRACT

The problem of determining the optimum allocation of aircraft to an airstrike against a transportation network is investigated. The damage function is assumed to be exponential. A solution procedure is developed utilizing dynamic programming and integer solutions are found. The number of aircraft to be assigned to the airstrike is considered a decision variable. A sensitivity analysis is run to determine the optimum value for this variable.



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I. INTRODUCTION

A. OBJECTIVE

The purpose of this paper is to present a procedure for determining the optimal allocation of aircraft to a single airstrike against a transportation network. This allocation problem is solved by dynamic programming and a Fortran-coded version of the program is included in three paper.

B. GENERAL

Sustained ground operations require a military force to have some means of resupply. This resupply capability is partially dependent upon a land transportation system. The level of resupply effort required depends upon what type of forces are being supported. Guerrilla forces emjoying local support require less resupply capability in terms of pounds per man per day than would a conventional army, but a greater percentage of this capability depends upon land transportation networks.

Any reduction in the resupply capability of a military force will reduce its combat effectiveness. Tactical air interdiction has been used extensively by the Armed Forces of the United States against its apponents in Southeast Asia to accomplish this reduction.

There are at least three alternative means of using tactical air to reduce the resupply capability of an enemy. Aircraft may be assigned to attack sources of supply to destroy war material before it enters the transportation system and/or to disrupt its production; aircraft can destroy war material as it moves in the transportation system; and finally aircraft can attempt to reduce the resupply capacity of the transportation system itself by destroying bridges, roads, railroads,



et cetera. Conventional wisdom argues that the first course of action is the most effective form of interdiction. Unfortunately for military planners, political considerations may rule out this alternative. This paper will focus on the last of these options, the reduction in capacity of the transportation system itself.

C. BACKGROUND

Considerable effort has been devoted to the interdiction problem. In particular two recent papers provided the background for the approach to the problem developed in this paper. McMasters and Mustin [1] developed an algorithm that determines which arcs of a transportation network should be attacked and at what level of effort given a limited: availability of resources. In this formulation of the problem the relationship between arc capacity and resource allocation (damage function) was assumed to be linear. The algorithm presented is based upon the max-flow min-cut theorem of Ford and Fulkerson [2] and the relationship between a primal network and its topological dual.

Nugent [3] investigated the same problem under the assumption of an exponential damage function which exhibits diminishing marginal returns. An algorithm was developed that finds a non-integer solution to the problem.

In this paper the transportation system will have the same network formulation as in Refs. 1 and 3. The problem will be formulated differently and dynamic programming will be used to provide integer solutions.

D. INTERDICTION PROBLEM

It will be assumed that, given unlimited aircraft availability, the assignment of aircraft to an airstrike would reach a point beyond which it would become uneconomical to assign further aircraft. In a problem



with constraints on aircraft availability this point might or might not occur before all available aircraft were assigned. For this reason, the objective of an operations officer planning an airstrike against a transportation network is not merely to minimize network capacity subject to aircraft availability, but to minimize the capacity subject to aircraft availability and the additional consideration that the cost of any incremental assignment of aircraft to the strike is exceeded by the benefit resulting from that assignment.

To accomplish the objective the strike planner must have information on the availability and cost of assignment of aircraft. Detailed information must be available concerning the transportation network including the upper and lower bounds on the capacity of each arc and its vulnerability to attack. The planner must also know the benefit to attribute to a reduction in resupply capability. With this information and using the procedure that will be outlined the planner can determine: how many aircraft to assigné to the airstrike; which arcs in the network should be attacked; how many aircraft to assign to arcs that will be attacked; and the capacity of the network after the airstrike.



II. THE MODEL

A. NETWORK DESCRIPTION

The transportation system under consideration is represented by a planar connected graph of nodes and undirected capacitated arcs. Arcs represent road segments and nodes represent either a road intersection or any other point where it is necessary to distinguish between road characteristics on either side of the node. Three constants are associated with each arc representing the upper and lower bounds on arc capacity and the arc's vulnerability parameter.

It is assumed that the network has one source node from which flow originates and one sink node at which flow terminates. If the transportation system being modeled has more than one originating point or terminating point this may be handled by creating a super-source and/or sink with artificial arcs connecting these super-nodes to sources and sinks as needed. These artificial arcs may not be attacked and their capacities are unbounded. The arc between nodes i and j is represented by (i,j). Nodes are numbered from 1 to n with 1 corresponding to the source and n the sink. With the exception of the source and the sink, flow conservation is assumed to hold. That is, flow out of node i equals flow into node i.

The flow in arc (i,j) is designated as x_{ij} if it is from node i to j and x_{ji} if it is from node j to i. This avoids the necessity of defining negative flows. Flow is assumed to be from the source to the sink although it may be in either direction in the intermediate arcs. The model as formulated considers only flows of a single commodity, tons



of resupply per day, and the value of one unit of flow is assumed to be the same for all arcs.

Capacities on arcs represent bounds on flow in either direction. The capacity on arc (i,j) is given by $m_{\hat{i}\hat{j}}$ and is assumed to be the same in both directions. The flow in arc (i,j) is restricted by

$$0 \le x_{ij} \le m_{ij}$$
.

The upper and lower bounds on the capacity of arc (i,j) are represented by \mathbf{u}_{ij} and \mathbf{l}_{ij} where

$$0 \le l_{ij} \le m_{ij} \le u_{ij}$$
.

The vulnerable portion of an arc's capacity is designated $w_{i,i}$ with

$$w_{ij} = u_{ij} - l_{ij}$$
.

The amount of resource allocated to interdict arc (i,j) is denoted by k_{ij} . The relationship between the capacity of arc (i,j) and the level of resource assigned to its interdiction is defined as the damage function of arc (i,j) and is given by

$$m_{ij}(k_{ij}) = l_{ij} + w_{ij} \exp(-b_{ij}k_{ij})$$
.

In the above damage function the parameter b_{ij} is a measure of the vulnerability of arc (i,j). Larger values of b_{ij} result in greater reductions in capacity for fixed values of b_{ij} , b_{ij} and b_{ij} and hence imply greater vulnerability. If $b_{ij} = 0$ then $b_{ij}(k_{ij}) = b_{ij}(k_{ij}) = b_{ij}(k_{ij})$ for all possible values of $b_{ij}(k_{ij})$ and no capacity reduction is possible. With this damage function if no aircraft are assigned to (i,j), its capacity will be $b_{ij}(k_{ij})$ and in the limit as the number of aircraft assigned to (i,j)



becomes infinite the capacity approaches l_{ij} . This lower bound will be referred to as arc capacity after unlimited interdiction.

B. DETERMINATION OF NETWORK CAPACITY

The opposition is assumed to have the means to determine how to maximize the flow in the transportation network. Let the capacity of the network be defined as this maximal flow. The determination of maximum flow is the well-known maximal flow problem and may be found using the max-flow labeling algorithm based upon the max-flow min-cut theorem of Ford and Fulkerson [2]. Ford and Fulkerson's theorem states that the maximum flow possible in a network is equal to the value of the minimal cut set. In this paper the value of a cut set will be referred to as its capacity.

C. ENUMERATION OF CUT SETS

The network capacity has been defined to be equal to the maximum flow possible in the network. As discussed, this maximum flow is equal to the value of the minimum cut set. Therefore, the problem of minimizing this capacity is equivalent to minimizing the capacity of some cut set. It is obvious that aircraft will be allocated to only one cut set since if this were not the case all aircraft could have been assigned to the cut set that was minimal after the first allocation with a resulting decrease in network capacity.

The complicating factor is that there is no easy way to find out which cut set should be selected for attack. To solve the problem it is necessary to have some means of identifying cut sets. In addition, it is desirable to be able to identify these cut sets in order of increasing capacity after unlimited interdiction since once a cut set



is found whose capacity after unlimited interdiction is greater than or equal to network capacity before interdiction no more cut sets need be identified. The network capacity before interdiction represents an upper bound on network capacity. Define $S_{\hat{i}}$ as the cut set with the ith smallest capacity after unlimited interdiction. The set of $S_{\hat{i}}$ whose capacities after unlimited interdiction is less than the upper bound on network capacity will be denoted by S.

The method by which cut sets are identified makes use of the topological dual of a network. Arcs have lengths rather than capacities in the dual network. The cut sets in the primal network have a one-to-one correspondence with the loopless paths in the dual. The problem of finding the shortest path from the dual source to the dual sink corresponds to the primal problem of finding the minimum cut set. The length of the dual shortest path equals the primal capacity.

The topological dual of a given primal network is constructed as follows:

- (1) Connect the source and the sink of the primal with an artificial arc. Call the result the modified primal.
- (2) Place a node in the area surrounding the modified primal (external face) and one in each face formed by the arcs of the modified primal.

 Let the dual source be the node in the external face and the dual sink be the node in the face involving the artificial arc.
- (3) For each arc in the primal (except the artificial arc) construct a dual arc that intersects it and joins the two nodes in the faces adjacent to it.
- (4) Assign each dual arc a length equal to the capacity of the primal arc it intersects.



Once the dual network has been developed, the shortest path through the dual before interdiction is found. This path is determined using the upper bounds on primal capacities as lengths of arcs in the dual. The length of this path represents network capacity before interdiction. Any shortest path algorithm may be used for this determination. Dreyfus [4] evaluated several of these algorithms concluding that the procedure developed by Dijkstra is the most efficient. Next the lengths of the dual arcs are changed to correspond to the lower bounds on primal arc capacities. The lengths of the dual paths now represent the capacities of the corresponding primal cut sets after unlimited interdiction. Paths with loops need not be considered since they correspond to primal cut sets that either include more arcs than necessary to sever the network or contain some arc more than once. The dual paths are identified in order of increasing length by means of an nth shortest path algorithm. Clarke, Krikorian and Rausen [5] developed an algorithm for determining the n best loopless paths, but it is difficult to apply. Pollack [6] in an unpublished paper presented an algorithm which successively develops the best loopless paths using extensions of shortest path algorithms. This procedure is less complex than that of Clarke, Krikorian and Rausen and appears to be more efficient. It should be noted that depending on the number of elements in S and the total number of paths in the dual, the most efficient means of developing S may be to enumerate all paths through the dual and then compare lengths.



III. ANALYSIS OF THE MODEL

A. MATHEMATICAL FORMULATION

The problem, as outlined previously, is to find that allocation of aircraft to an airstrike against a transportation network which will minimize the capacity of that network. This minimization is accomplished subject to a constraint on aircraft availability and the consideration that the incremental benefit of assigning aircraft must exceed the incremental cost of that assignment. If net benefit is defined to be the difference between the total benefit derived from the airstrike and the total cost of aircraft assignment the problem may be restated as follows: maximize net benefit subject to aircraft availability.

Let K represent the total number of aircraft available for assignment to the airstrike and let K* be the number of aircraft that have been assigned to the airstrike. Then for any choice of K* the problem may be stated mathematically as

 $\begin{array}{ll} \min & \text{[cut set capacity after optimal interdiction]} \\ \mathbf{S_{i}} \in \mathbf{S} \end{array}$

or

subject to
$$\sum_{(i,j)\in S_i} k_{ij} \leq K^*$$

k_{i,i} positive integer .



The structure of this problem will allow the development of an efficient solution procedure. Note that with respect to a particular cut set the objective is to minimize its capacity. Since the cut set capacity is the sum of functions that are convex in $\mathbf{k_{ij}}$, this capacity is a convex function and is therefore unimodal with respect to minimization. The overall objective function is the minimum of a set of convex functions and is neither concave nor convex. This together with the problem of not knowing which cut set is going to be attacked requires that each cut set in S be the subject of a minimization problem.

For a particular cut set, Si, the problem is

min
$$\Sigma$$
 $(i,j) \in S_i$ $(l_{ij} + w_{ij} \exp[-b_{ij}k_{ij}])$
subject to Σ $k_{ij} \leq K$

k_{ii} positive integer .

The term Σ $\mathbf{1}_{ij}$ is constant and may be deleted during the minimization (\mathbf{i},\mathbf{j}) and then added back to give the solution in terms of capacity. This problem will be solved by means of dynamic programming. Each arc in the cut set under consideration will be represented by a stage in the dynamic program.

Let the number of arcs be n and resubscript each arc (i,j) and its associated parameters in any order with the single subscript i running from one to n. The decision variable for stage i is k_i and the return function for stage i is given by

$$r_i = w_i \exp(-b_i k_i)$$
.



The state variable for stage i will be denoted by $x_{\hat{1}}$ and represents the remaining resource availability at stage i. The problem may be restated as finding $f_n(x_n)$ where

$$f_{n}(x_{n}) = \min_{\substack{0 \le k_{n} \le x_{n} \\ \text{subject to}}} \sum_{j=1}^{n} r_{j}(x_{j})$$

$$\text{subject to} \quad x_{j-1} = x_{j} - k_{j}.$$

 $F_n(x_n)$ is the optimal return from stages n,n-l,...,l given x_n units of resource. The above problem may be solved by dynamic programming since $f_n(x_n)$ can be decomposed into a series of single variable problems. Nemhauser [7] shows that problems with additive stage returns may always be decomposed. Therefore, the following recursive relationship is valid

$$\begin{array}{lll} f_{n}(x_{n}) & = & \underset{0 \leq k_{n} \leq x_{n}}{\min} & \left[r_{n}(k_{n}) + f_{n-1}(x_{n-1}) \right] \\ & & \text{and} & & \\ f_{1}(x_{1}) & = & \underset{0 < k_{1} < x_{1}}{\min} & r_{1}(x_{1}) \end{array}.$$

The value of x_{n-1} is given by

$$x_{n-1} = t_n(x_n, k_n) = x_n - k_n$$

where t_n is the transformation which gives the relationship between the amount of resource remaining after stage n given that x_n was available before stage n and k_n was utilized at stage n.

The dynamic program is solved by starting at stage one and working to stage n solving a series of single variable minimizations. These minimizations are facilitated by the convexity of the individual stage returns. Nemhauser [7] provides a proof of the fact that in the



minimization of additive stage returns the convexity of each stage return ensures that $f_i(x_i)$ is a convex function of x_i . This means that each single variable optimization performed in the dynamic program is of a unimodal function and permits the use of Fibonacci search to find the optimal values of the decision variables. An application of this technique is found in Ref. 7.

After the optimal allocation of aircraft within each cut set in S is found for a given K*, their capacities are compared. The cut set with the minimum capacity is the one that would be attacked if K* aircraft were to be assigned to the airstrike. The capacity of this minimal cut set is by definition the network capacity and this capacity will be a strictly decreasing function of K*. The remaining problem is to determine how many aircraft to assign to the strike in order to maximize net benefit. To make this determination it is necessary to know the cost of allocating aircraft to the strike. This will be assumed to be a constant C dollars per aircraft. The benefit derived from network capacity reduction must also be known. It will be assumed to be a constant D dollars per unit capacity reduction.

With the above information the problem of determining how many aircraft to allocate may be determined by comparing the incremental cost of assigning aircraft to the benefit resulting from that assignment. To make this comparison it is necessary to define the benefit resulting from the assignment of a single aircraft. This will be defined as the product of the benefit per unit capacity reduction (D) and the amount of capacity reduction that can be achieved by that aircraft.



The amount of capacity reduction that can be achieved by one additional aircraft is a function of the number already assigned and will be denoted as $\delta(K^*)$. A simple decision rule is to assign aircraft $K^* = 1,2,\ldots$ until a point is reached where benefit from the last aircraft assigned does not exceed the cost of assignment. At this point

and the optimal allocation of aircraft is K*-l . If $\delta(K^*) > C/\Omega$ for all K* the optimal allocation is K under this rule. There would be no problems with this decision rule if $\delta(K^*)$ were a non-increasing function of K*. In this case once a K* was found such that $\delta(K^*) \leq C/D$ the cost of any further assignment of aircraft would exceed its benefit.

If network capacity after optimal interdiction were determined by only one cut set for all values of K* then $\delta(K^*)$ would be non-increasing. This is not the case. In general as K* ranges from 0 to K different cut sets are minimal (see Figure 1). At K* = 0 the cut set that determines network capacity is by definition the one that is minimal before any interdiction takes place. Unless this cut set is also minimal after unlimited interdiction, at some point another cut set must determine network capacity. This crossover may, of course, occur after assignment of all available aircraft. These points where a change in the constraining cut set occurs represent points where $\delta(K^*)$ increases with respect to K*. Therefore, there is no guarantee that stopping when $\delta(K^*) \leq C/D$ for the first time is optimal. If at some point after further assignment of aircraft is made $\delta(K^*)$ again exceeds C/D, it may be that further assignment of aircraft would have resulted in benefits outweighing costs.



Capacity

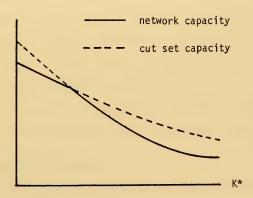


Figure 1. Network Capacity

The problem of determining the optimal K* will be handled as follows:

- (1) Find the first value of K* for which $\delta(K^*) \leq C/D$. Subtract one aircraft and let the resulting value of K* be K_1^* . If K* = K before K_1^* is found then the optimal allocation of aircraft is K.
- (2) Check to see if $\delta(K^*) > C/D$ for any values of $K^* > K_1^*$. If not go to step (4). If so find the next value of K^* for which $\delta(K^*) \leq C/D$. Let this number minus one be K_2^* .
- (3) Continue in this manner to identify the K* at which $\delta(K^*)$ becomes \leq C/D after there has been an intervening value of K* such that $\delta(K^*) > \text{C/D}$. Subtracting one aircraft each time, label the resulting values $K_3^*, K_4^*, \ldots, K_n^*$. If $\delta(K) > \text{C/D}$ let $K_n^* = K$. Let K_0^* be defined as 0.
- (4) Starting with i = 1 and continuing until i = n, check whether or not the cost to reach K_i from K_{i-1} is exceeded by the benefit. If it is,



- let $K^*_{\text{opt}} = K_1^*$, increment i by one, and go to the beginning of step (4). If it is not, go to step (5).
- (5) Starting with 1 = 1 and continuing until 1 = n-i check whether the cost to reach K_{i+1} from K_{i-1} is exceeded by the benefit. If it is, let $K^*_{opt} = K^*_{i+1}$, let i = i+1+1 and go to step (4). If not, increment 1 by one and go to the beginning of step (5).

At the end of this procedure K^*_{opt} will be the optimal number of aircraft to assign to the airstrike and the problem will be solved.

B. STEPWISE SOLUTION PROCEDURE

- (1) Formulate the topological dual of the transportation network. Find the shortest path through the dual before interdiction. This represents an upper bound on network capacity.
- (2) Use Pollack's algorithm [6] to identify the first, second, third, shortest paths through the dual using the lower bounds. Continue identifying paths until one is found whose length exceeds the previously found upper bound on network capacity. Let the primal cut sets corresponding to these paths be denoted as set S.
- (3) For each cut set that is an element of S, use dynamic programming to find the optimal allocation of aircraft and the resulting capacity for K^* equal to $1,2,\ldots,K$.
- (4) For each value of K* find the network capacity by taking the minimum of the capacities of the elements of S.
- (5) Construct the function $\delta(K^*)$ and determine K_1^* , K_2^* ,..., K_n^* .
- (6) Using the procedure previously outlined determine which $K_{\hat{1}}^*$ is optimal.



C. SAMPLE PROBLEM

The diagram in Figure 2 represents a hypothetical transportation network. The three numbers associated with each arc are b_{ij} , l_{ij} , and u_{ij} .

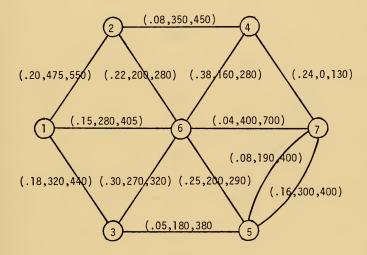


Figure 2. An Example Network



Figure 3 shows how the topological dual of the transportation network is constructed.

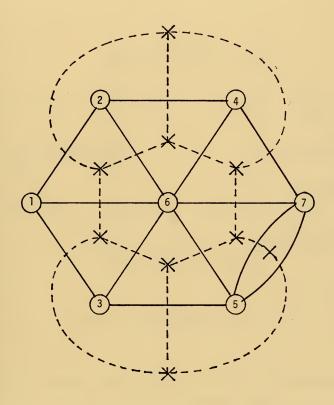


Figure 3. Construction of the Dual



Figure 4 shows the topological dual after the data for each arc has been transferred from the primal. In the dual u_{ij} and l_{ij} represent bounds on arc length.

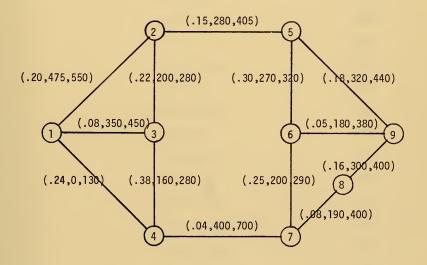


Figure 4. The Topological Dual

To simplify notation, paths through the dual will be designated by the nodes over which they pass. The shortest path through the dual before interdiction is 1,2,5,9 with a length of 1395. This gives an upper bound on network capacity. Table I lists all loopless paths through the dual in order of length after unlimited interdiction. It should be noted that the length of path number 11, the 11th shortest path after unlimited



TABLE I. DUAL PATHS

PATH	NODES	
1	1,4,7,6,9	780
2	1,4,7,8,9	890
3	1,4,3,2,5,9	9.60
4	1,2,5,9	1075
5	1,4,3,2,5,6,9	1090
6	1,3,2,5,9	1150
7	1,4,7,6,5,9	1190
8	1,2,5,6,9	1205
9	1,3,2,5,6,9	1280
10	1,3,4,7,6,9	1290
11	1,3,4,7,8,9	1400
12	1,4,3,2,5,6,7,8,9	1600
13	1,2,3,4,7,6,9	1615
14	1,3,4,7,6,5,9	1700
15	1,2,5,6,7,8,9	1715
16	1,2,3,4,7,8,9	1725
17	1,3,2,5,6,7,8,9	1790
18	1,2,3,4,7,6,5,9	2025



interdiction, exceeds the upper bound on network capacity. Therefore the cut sets comprising set S correspond to paths 1 through 10.

It is assumed for purposes of this example that there are 100 air-craft available for assignment at a cost of 30,000 dollars for each aircraft assigned. It is further assumed that the benefit derived from a reduction of one ton per day in network capacity is 7,500 dollars.

The dynamic program for each S_i that is constraining including a sensitivity analysis on K* is contained in the computer output. A graph of the resulting network capacity is given by Figure 5. For K* in the range 1 through 25 cut set 4 determines network capacity, for K* in the range 26 through 57 cut set 3 is constraining, and for K* from 58 to 100 cut set 1 is minimal.

From the given values of C and D, 30,000 and 7,500 respectively, the points of interest are those at which $\delta(K^*)$ becomes \leq C/D = 4. This occurs for the first time when K^* = 42. Therefore, K_1^* = 41. At K^* = 58 $\delta(K^*)$ again exceeds 4 so it is necessary to search for another point where $\delta(K^*) \leq 4$. This next occurs at K^* = 62 and K_2^* is 61. Since $\delta(K^*)$ does not exceed 4 for any $K^* > 62$, K_n^* = K_2^* .

It is obvious that the benefit to get to K_1^* exceeded the cost since K_1^* was the first point at which the allocation of another aircraft did not produce benefits exceeding costs. However, it is not quite as obvious when the decision is made whether or not to allocate K_2^* aircraft. The benefit to get from K_1^* to K_2^* is equal to the incremental capacity reduction multiplied by D.

Benefit = 62.23 X 7,500

= 466,725.



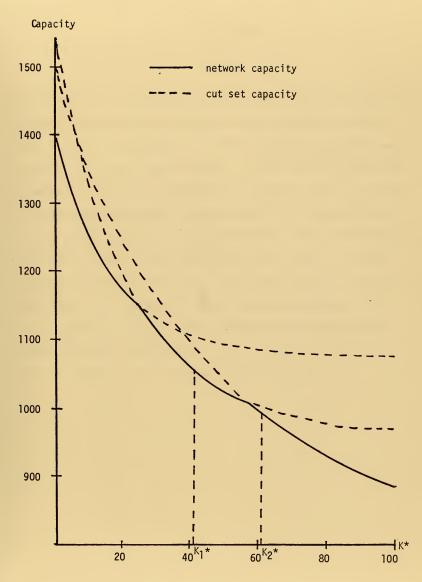


Figure 5. Example Network Capacity



This benefit is compared to the cost of allocating $K_2^* - K_1^*$ aircraft.

 $Cost = 20 \times 30,000$

= 600,000.

Thus the benefit is outweighed by the cost. Since there is no allocation of aircraft greater than K_2^* that will result in benefits exceeding costs, it may be concluded that $K^*=41$ represents the optimal number of aircraft to assign to the airstrike. At this level of interdiction the network capacity will be 1056.06 tons per day. This is a reduction of 338.94 tons per day with a resulting benefit of 2,542,050 dollars. The cost of this reduction is 1,230,000 dollars. The cut set that will be attacked is the cut set corresponding to path number three which contains the following primal arcs: (4,7); (4,6); (2,6); (1,6); and (1,3). These arcs correspond to dynamic programming stages 1,2,3,4, and 5 respectively. Looking at the dynamic programming stages the optimal allocation of aircraft is: $k_4,7=9$; $k_4,6=6$; $k_2,6=7$; $k_1,6=10$; and $k_1,3=9$. This completes the solution.



IV. DISCUSSION

A. PROPERTIES OF THE SOLUTION TECHNIQUE

The dynamic programming approach taken to the problem guarantees that the solution found will be a global minimum over the feasible region. The integer constraints pose no problem. In fact, the integer restriction limits the number of values the decision variables may assume and allows an exact solution to be found. Dynamic programming also provides a built in capability for sensitivity analysis.

The convexity of the damage function allowed the use of Fibonacci search within the dynamic program resulting in a tremendous savings in the number of separate calculations made in each dynamic program. With K equal to 100 the reduction was on the order of 10^{-1} times the number of calculations needed for exhaustive search. Larger values of K will produce savings of an even greater magnitude. The execution time required for the sample problem was 15.06 seconds on an IBM 360/67. Utilizing Fibonacci search it was found that the increase in execution time for larger values of K was approximately linear. Execution time was also roughly linear with respect to the total number of dynamic programming stages required (45 in the sample problem). From the above observations the amount of computer time required for larger problems may be predicted. For example, a problem with 15 cut sets in S averaging 6 arcs per cut set would require 90 dynamic programming stages. If 200 aircraft were available a reasonable estimate would be that this problem would take approximately 4 times as long to solve as the sample problem.

A further reduction in the number of calculations required may be achieved with a coarse grid. Aircraft can be allocated in packages of



five and the constraining cut sets determined. These cut sets can then have aircraft reallocated one at a time and the optimal solution found as before. This approach can not guarantee that the correct constraining cut sets will be selected, but if they are the solution will be optimal.

Dynamic programming allows some generalizations to be made in the problem. To begin with, since additive stage returns are always: decomposable, the technique places no restrictions on the damage functions. The negative exponential damage function used in this paper has intuitive appeal since it does exhibit diminishing marginal returns. This function also contributes to computational efficiency since its convexity allowed the use of Fibonacci search. However, if actual interdiction data suggests damage functions of another form, the problem can still be solved with somewhat greater expenditures of computer time.

Another generalization suggested by dynamic programming is to consider the allocation of two types of aircraft. In this case a damage function of the form

$$m_{ij}(k_{ij},h_{ij}) = l_{ij} + w_{ij} \exp(-b_{ij}k_{ij} - a_{ij}h_{ij})$$

might be assumed with k_{ij} , l_{ij} , and w_{ij} defined as before, h_{ij} representing the number of aircraft of the second type assigned to arc (i,j), and a_{ij} denoting the vulnerability parameter corresponding to the second type of aircraft. Dynamic programming may again be used to solve the problem, but two state and two decision variables are required.

Although the new damage function preserves convexity, in this case
the series of minimizations is of functions of two variables and
Fibonacci search is not applicable. A minimization problem was run for
a hypothetical cut set containing five arcs. The execution time required



for solution was 5.63 seconds when 10 aircraft of two types: were available; with 19 aircraft of each type, the time required was 32.79 seconds; and when 25 of each type aircraft were available, over a minute of computer time was used. To deal with even relatively small networks the computer time requirements would become prohibitive if it were necessary to consider larger aircraft availabilities. To assign three types of aircraft, dynamic programming would require three state and three decision variables and the technique would be impractical even for small problems.

Another application of the dynamic programming approach is in a modification of Nugent's algorithm [3]. This modification will provide integer solutions. Nugent presented a method of finding non-integer allocations of resources that would minimize network capacity subject to $\sum_{(i,j)\in S_i} k_{ij} \leq K \quad \text{and} \quad k_{ij} \geq 0 \quad \text{As previously discussed, the objective function in this problem is convex with respect to <math display="inline">k_{ij}$. In Nugent's formulation the feasible region defined by the constraints is also convex. Therefore, for any particular cut set the problem is a convex non-linear program and Kuhn-Tucker theory provides conditions that are both necessary and sufficient for a global minimum. Nugent solves these Kuhn-Tucker conditions and using an upper bounding technique arrives at the cut set that will be minimal after optimum interdiction.

In the modification the set S and the upper bound on network capacity are found as before. The Kuhn-Tucker conditions are then solved to find non-integer constrained solutions that minimize cut set capacity for each element of S. The minimum of these solutions represents the optimal solution without integer constraints. When integer constraints are added this minimum represents a lower bound on network capacity. The cut set



with the minimal non-integer solution is deleted from S and becomes the subject of a dynamic program to find an integer solution. If this integer solution is less than the non-integer solutions corresponding to the remaining elements of S it is optimal. If it is greater than some or all of the elements of S it represents a new, smaller upper bound on network capacity. Any elements of S with non-integer saTutions greater than this new upper bound are deleted from S. From the remaining elements: of S the cut set with the smallest non-integer solution is selected from S. Again dynamic programming used to find a new integer solution. The new integer solution is compared with the old integer solution and the minimum is called the current integer solution. The current integer solution is then compared to the remaining non-integer solutions and the process is repeated. This iterative procedure is continued until either S is the null set or until the current integer solution is less than or equal the non-integer solutions corresponding to all of the remaining elements of S. In either case the current integer solution represents the optimal solution to the integer constrained problem.

In general, if the number of aircraft to be allocated to the airstrike is known, this modification is more efficient that using dynamic programming on every element of S to solve the minimization problem.

In solving the example problem from Nugent's paper it was necessary to run only one dynamic program and with exponential damage functions the Kuhn-Tucker conditions are easy to solve relative to solving a dynamic program. However, this modification does not lend itself to the sensitivity analysis on K that is necessary when the number of aircraft to be assigned to the strike is taken to be a decision variable.



As already mentioned, there are limitations on the technique presented. One difficulty that has not yet been discussed is in the measurement of the costs and benefits of aircraft assignment. In this paper the problem was ignored and constant dollar values of C and D were selected arbitrarily. This problem is important since the selection of C and D determines how many aircraft will be assigned to the strike. If D had been taken to be 10,000 dollars per ton of flow reduced vice: 7,500 and the rest of the problem remained unchanged, the decision would have been made to allocate 77 aircraft in a strike against cut set one resulting in a network capacity of 938.19 tons per day. On the other hand, if D was less than 1,519 dollars per ton of flow reduced the solution would be to make no attack against the network.

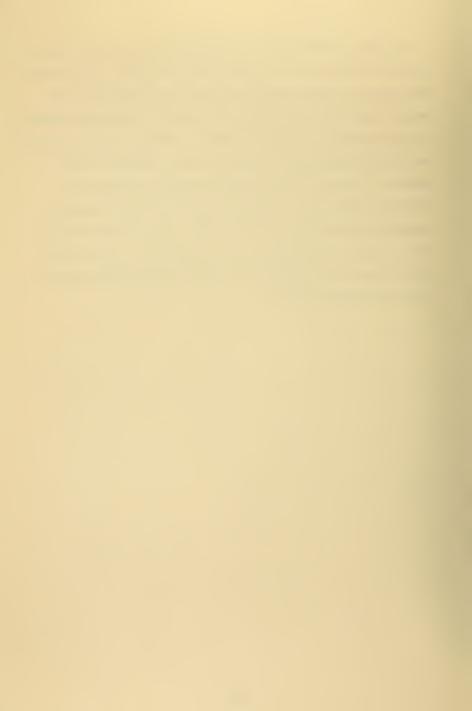
B. RECOMMENDATIONS FOR FURTHER STUDY

The possibility of deriving damage functions from actual interdiction data was mentioned earlier. If the method of this paper were to be put to use in solving a real-world interdiction problem some verification of the damage function would be essential. However, due to the sensitivity of the solution to both costs and benefits, the measurement problem associated with costs and benefits should receive at least as much attention as the damage function.

Another possibility for further study would be the utilization of the model described in this paper to represent real-world problems other than aircraft interdiction. One obvious example might be the problem of allocating resources to the improvement of a highway system. In this example it would probably be relatively easy to get data from which to derive improvement functions, but the measurement of costs and benefits would be as difficult as before.



The model presented could be refined by assigning different values to capacity reduction in the various arcs of the network. The objective then would be to minimize the maximum value of flow possible in the network rather than to minimize network capacity. The solution technique presented could still be used. A further refinement might be to consider not only arc vulnerability, but also the repair capability of the opponent. This would require capacity reduction to be taken as a function of time as well as aircraft allocation and would make the analysis of the model more difficult. Many other refinements could be made in order to make the model more representative of the real world, but in general the increased realism gained would be at the expense of increased computational effort.



V. SUMMARY

A solution procedure has been developed for the problem of determining the optimal allocation of aircraft in planning an airstrike against a transportation network. The damage function for arcs in the network is assumed to have a negative exponential form. To make use of the procedure it is necessary to have available the following information: the upper and lower bounds on the capacity of each arc, the vulnerability parameter for each arc, the number of aircraft available for assignment to the airstrike, the cost of assigning an aircraft to the strike, and the benefit resulting from network capacity reduction.

In the solution procedure every cut set that is designated a candidate for attack is the subject of a dynamic program. A sensitivity analysis is performed on the number of aircraft to be assigned and this gives the network capacity after optimal interdiction as a function of the number of aircraft assigned to the strike. A cost benefit analysis is then made to determine the largest number of aircraft that can be assigned before costs of further allocation begin to outweigh the benefits resulting from that allocation.

At the end of the procedure the solution consists of the following: the number of aircraft to assign to the airstrike, the cut set that will be attacked, the number of aircraft to allocate to each arc of the cut set chosen, and the capacity of the network after this assignment of aircraft.



COMPUTER OUTPUT

DP SOLNS CUT SET 1

ACFT	AVAIL	CAPACITY	CHANGE	IN CAPACITY
	01234567890123456789012345678901234567890123456789	0.50 0.26 0.26 1.47 0.26 1.47 0.26 1.43 1.33		5886144772098699738626997386145203885650897423670 071.07388643038862699733508856650897423677621977532111-0100.000999988888853332988953322983859227131111010999988888887727777766666655555555555560099609999888888887777777766666655555555555555



ACF T	A VAI L	CAPACITY	CHANGE IN CAPACITY
	01234567890123456789012345678901234567890123456789012345678901234567890123456789012345678901234567890	324473102288815649798641872441144881092708488931884499011406273.888262535578641872441144488109279391889493118064495211000005988528407476666555544448529979866466588888888888888888888888888888888	-4.87925 -4.87925 -4.87925 -4.87925 -4.87925 -4.87925 -4.87925 -4.87925 -4.87925 -4.87925 -4.38274 -4.38274 -4.38274 -4.38274 -4.38274 -4.38274 -3.993813 -3.6588305 -3.



ISTATE	IDEC	ISTATE	IDEC	ISTATE	IDEC
0.369258147036925814703692581470369	0369258147036925814703692581470369	1470369258147036925814703692581470 111122223334444555566677777888899990	1470369258147036925814703692581470 111122223334444555566677777888899990	25814703692581470369258 11122222333444555566677788888999	25814703692581470369258 11112222333444555566677788888999



ISTATE	IDEC	ISTATE	IDEC	ISTATE	IDEC
036925814703692581470369258147036999999999999999999999999999999999999	0024792570257035803581368136914691 11122223333344445555666677778	1470369258147036925814703692581470	0035803581368136914691479247925702 111112222333344445555666677788	25814703692581470369258 11112222333444555566677788888999	013691469147924792570358035803581



ISTATE	IDEC	ISTATE	IDEC	ISTATE	IDEC
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DP SOLNS CUT SET 3

ACFT	AVAIL	CAPACITY	CHANGE IN CAPACITY
	01234567890123456789012345678901234567890123456789	0032 1496 1497	0.0 9.3683 -27.94836 -27.94836 -27.941616 -17.44161 -16.79863 -17.509863 -17.



ACFT	AVAIL	CAPACITY	CHANGE IN CAPACITY
	012345678901234567890123456789012345678901234567890 5555555556666666666777777777777888888888	100128.6.31970.557533.6099.1.1001.557533.6.0000099.7.6.633190.9.9999.6.8.8.10.9999.6.8.8.10.9999.6.8.8.10.9999.6.8.8.10.9999.6.8.8.10.9999.6.8.8.10.9999.6.8.8.10.9999.6.8.8.10.9999.8.8.8.10.9999.8.8.8.10.9999.8.8.8.10.9999.8.8.8.10.9999.8.8.8.10.9999.8.8.8.10.9999.8.8.8.10.9999.8.8.8.10.9999.8.8.8.10.9999.8.8.8.10.9999.8.8.8.10.9999.8.8.8.10.9999.8.8.8.8.999.8.3.4.8.2.1.9999.8.8.8.8.999.8.3.4.8.2.1.9999.8.8.8.8.999.8.3.4.8.2.1.9999.8.8.8.8.999.8.3.8.8.8.999.8.8.8.8	-2.47127 -2.651644 -2.6517727 -2.6517727 -2.6517727 -2.6517727 -2.13790452 -2.137904527 -1.8759097185 -1.875907185 -1.8759797185 -1.8759797185 -1.8759797185 -1.8759797185 -1.8759797185 -1.8759797185 -1.8759797185 -1.8759797185 -1.8759797185 -1.8759797185 -1.8759797185 -1.8759797185 -1.8759797185 -1.875971



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ISTATE	IDEC	ISTATE	I DEC	ISTATE	IDEC
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036925814703692581470369258147036999999999999999999999999999999999999	0012345678012345688912345 111111111122222222233333	1470369258147036925814703692581470	0012345789012346789012356689012346	25814703692581470369258 1112222233344455555666777788888999	001345678901335678901335678901335



ISTATE	IDEC	ISTATE	IDEC	ISTATE	IDEC
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DP SOLNS CUT SET 4

ACFT	AVAIL	CAPACITY	CHANGE IN CAPACITY
	01234567890123456789012345678901234567890123456789	0248620861676832932868167683093298693208867683093208816776830932088167768309320881677683093298693376830932986933768209333333333333333333333333333333333333	66121421428528586786766676667666766676667666766676667



ACFT	AVAIL	CAPACITY	CHANGE	IN CAPACITY
	012345678901234567890123456789012345678901234567890 1234567890123456789012345678901234567890	7666999.4418399.410399.3316399.3316399.3316399.6310.0888.02696.2710.0888.02696.2710.0888.02696.2710.0888.02696.2710.0888.02696.2710.0888.02696.2710.0888.02696.2710.0888.02696.2710.0888.02696.2710.0888.02696.2710.0888.02696.2710.0888.02696.2710.0888.02696.2710.0888.02696.2710.0881.02890.08890.0890.0890.0890.0890.0890.08		82999746672197158548139107669449523770966618877476555445596192143391076693336663317099878774723433333332626429493336663337092666189987854747699878599999999999999999999999999999999



ISTATE	IDEC	ISTATE	IDEC	ISTATE	IDEC
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ISTATE	IDEC	ISTATE	IDEC	ISTATE	IDEC
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ISTATE	IDEC	ISTATE	IDEC	STATE	IDEC
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THIS PROGRAM IS DESIGNED TO FIND THE MINIMUM OF A SEQUENCE OF FUNCTIONS. EACH FUNCTION IN THE SEQUENC IS A SUM OF NEGATIVE EXPONENTIAL FUNCTIONS OF THE FORM BLO+W*EXP(-9*IDEC). IDEC REPRESENTS THE AMOUNT OF RESOURCE ALLOCATED TO REDUCE THE VALUE OF A PARTICULAR NEGATIVE EXPONENTIAL AND IS THE DECISION VARIABLE. THE MINIMIZATION IS SUBJECT TO CONSTRAINT THAT THE SUM OF THE IDEC'S FOR EACH FUNCTION IN THE SEQUENCE IS LESS THAN OR EQUAL TO K WHERE K REPRESENTS THE TOTAL RESOURCE AVAILABILTY. DYNAMIC PROGRAMMING IS THE SOLUTION TECHNIQUE USED. SEQUENCE

THE IMPUT PARAMETERS FOR THIS PROGRAM ARE AS FOLLOWS -

NCUT-NUMBER OF FUNCTIONS TO BE MINIMIZED.

K - MAXIMUM AMOUNT OF RESOURCE AVAILABLE.

UPBND - PREDETERMINED UPPER BOUND.

N - NUMBER OF EXPONENTIALS IN PARTICULAR FUNCTION.

B,W,BLO - CONSTANTS ASSOC WITH EACH EXPONENTIAL.

THE OUTPUT FROM THIS PROGRAM IS AS FOLLOWS (FOR EACH FUNCTION N DYNAMIC PROGRAMMING STAGES
ARE REQUIRED. FOR EACH STAGE THE
OPTIMAL VALUE OF THE DECISION VARIABLE IS PRINTED
FOR EACH POSSIBLE VALUE OF THE STATE VARIABLE.)

OF STATE VARIABLE. VALUE FOR DECISION ISTATE - VALUE VARIABLE.

OF THE STAGES THE EACH FUNCTION) END SOLUTION

AVAIL - AMOUNT OF RESOURCE - SOLUTION TO MINIMIZATION INCREMENTAL IMPROVEMENT IN AVAILABLE. PROBLEM. SOLUTION.

DIMENSION FCN(200), FCNNEW(200), CAP(200) DIMENSION IPLANE(200), KPLANE(200), DELCAP(200) DIMENSION IFIBNO(20) DATA IFIBNO(1,2,47,12,20,33,54,88,143,232,376,609, 1986,1596,2583,4180,6764,10945,17710/

READ # PATHS IN NETWORK, # PLANES AVAIL & LUB ON CAPACITY

READ(5,40) NCUT,K,UPBND FORMAT(2(13),F9.4) DO 1200 IPATH=1.NCUT DATA FCN/20C*0.0/,FCNNEW/200*0.0/,CAP/200*0.0/ DATA IPLANE/200*0/,KPLANE/200*0/ DATA DELCAP/200*0.0/

READ # ARCS IN CUT SET

READ(5,50) FORMAT(12) 50 M=K+1

READ IN ARC PARAMETERS (1ST ARC)

READ(5,60) B,W,BLO FORMAT(3(F10.6)) BLOSUM=BLO

DP STAGE 1 DO 100 I=1, M ARG=-B*(I-1)



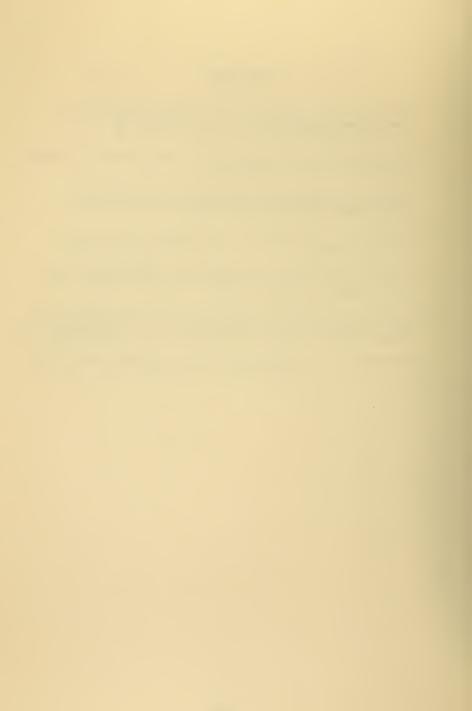
```
FCN(I) = W*EXP(ARG)
IPLANE(I) = I-1
KPLANE(I) = IPLANE(I)
CONTINUE
ISTAGE=1
WRITE(6,1000) ISTAGE, (KPLANE(I), IPLANE(I), I=1,M)
     100
COC CCC
                     DP STAGES 2 THRU N
              DO 900 ISTAGE=2, N
                     READ IN ARC PARAMETERS (REMAINING ARCS.)
              READ(5,60) B,W,BLO
BLOSUM=BLOSUM+BLO
IF(BLOSUM-GE.UPBND) GO TO 2550
                     SET STATE VARIABLE & RUN FIB SEARCH
              DO 800 J=2.M
              IX=J-1
              10-200 NG=1,20
IF(IFIBNG(NG).GE.J) GG TG 300
CONTINUE
           200
300
              NOM=NO-1
     350
     360
     400
500
     800
     850
     900
                      END DP STAGES
             FORMAT('1'/////' '.29X.'STAGE NUMBER '.I2//
1' ',14X,3('ISTATE',4X,'IDEC',2X)///
1' ',14X,3(I6,4X,I4,2X)/' ',14X,3(I6,4X,I4,2X)/
    1000
                                                                                             NUMBER *, 12////
```





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airstrike against a transportation network is investigated. The damage function is assumed to be exponential. A solution procedure is developed utilizing dynamic programming and integer solutions are found. The number of aircraft to be assigned to the airstrike is considered a decision variable.

A sensitivity analysis is run to determine the optimum value for this variable.



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